

FORD ABANDONS HIS PEACE MISSION

AMICABLE SETTLEMENT OF
DISPUTE OVER ANCONA CASE
IS NOW REGARDED PROBABLE

Vienna Is Reported as Viewing American Note in a More Favorable Light

NEW PLAN SUGGESTED

Expert on International Law Would Have a Neutral Board Treat Problem.

Vienna, Dec. 24. (via London, 12:30 p. m.)—In all quarters the conviction is now entertained that the differences between Austria-Hungary and the United States which arose from the Ancona incident are susceptible of amicable settlement.

The Austro-Hungarian reply to the latest Ancona note may be expected in a few days.

Note Well Received.

The second Ancona note from Washington is being studied here. Meanwhile the press is withholding comment. The remarks incident to the announcement that the note had been received were temperate and even friendly in tone and all circles are convinced the outlook may fairly be described as favorable. No inkling has been gained as to the nature of the forthcoming note to the United States.

Suggests Plan.

Professor Lammach, an expert on international law, one of the members of the tribunal at The Hague, suggests in view of the fact that there is a misunderstanding between the two nations, an international commission of naval experts from neutral countries be appointed to examine the Ancona case, as was done in the famous Doggerbank incident. It is felt in certain quarters here that this procedure would offer the best chance of establishing the facts and thus placing the responsibility.

Would Hold Good Relations.

The Associated Press correspondent can state on the best authority that the Austrian government as well as the German is willing to do its utmost to maintain good relations with the United States providing no conditions regarded as prejudicial to the honor of this nation are imposed.

At the American embassy the impression prevails that it is still possible to arrive at a solution of the Ancona question.

Pick Up Wireless Note.

London, Dec. 24. (4:10 p. m.)—A message from Baron Burián, Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, to Baron Zvetlik, Austro-Hungarian charge d'affaires at Washington, is circulated in London today by the wireless press. It is dated Vienna and was picked up in England on its transit by wireless telegraphy to the United States. The communication reads:

"The American note was handed over to me on the 21st. Tell the secretary of state the answer we are now preparing will be guided by the same concern for good relations between both countries as mentioned by the federal government. In consequence of the Christmas holidays our answer cannot be expected before next week."

Entombed a Week: Alive.

Shamokin, Pa., Dec. 24.—After being entombed by a fall of coal at the Richards colliery of the Reading company since Monday last, Joseph Renock, a miner, was taken out alive by rescuers today. He was very weak, but it is said he will recover.

Austria Accepts Note Well.

Vienna, Dec. 24. (via London, 3 p. m.)—The new American note regarding the Ancona has made a good impression here. An early answer may be expected. Work on it has begun already.

FIREMAN KILLED
IN TRAIN CRASH

Galena, Kan., Dec. 24.—D. M. Bray, a fireman, was killed and 28 passengers injured early today when an accommodation train on the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf railroad crashed into a St. Louis and San Francisco passenger train. The Frisco train was standing at the station when the accident occurred. A heavy fog obscured the view of the accommodation train.

Chicago Lid
is Tilted by
Late Ruling

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Reform workers and ministers today directed emphatic protest to Mayor Thompson as a result of the ruling by the corporation counsel which permits restaurants and hotels to keep their establishments open all night for the New Year's eve celebration. Letters were sent to the mayor asking an opportunity be given civic organizations to discuss the subject with him.

The hotel keepers and restaurant managers say they will keep their places open all night, as a result of the ruling. In previous years they were obliged to close at 3 o'clock in the morning. Liquors may be purchased, for future consumption, until 1 a. m., at which time all bars must be closed.

Table reservations have exceeded all expectations, restaurant managers say. The celebration promises to be the merriest in years.

BATTLES DISPEL
PREDICTIONS FOR
CHRISTMASTRUCE

London, Dec. 24. (11:37 a. m.)—Many isolated engagements on various fronts have upset predictions of the "Universal Christmas truce." Nothing of great importance, however, has developed.

From Galicia the Russians report success in an action against the Austrians near Trembowla, where there has been an indication recently that the Austrians and Germans are seeking to strengthen their lines. Although no activity is reported on the Mesopotamian front, the Russians are advancing steadily in Persia in an effort to link their forces with those of their British allies.

French Claim Gains.

On Hartmann-Weckerkopf the French claim to have maintained their gains on a front of one mile, but admit that their left has been compelled to fall back. The Germans assert they have retaken the lost ridge, with the capture of a large number of prisoners. Special dispatches to London papers state the Bulgarians are preparing to invade Greek territory in an effort to expel the allies from Saloniki. The entente forces are engaged in strengthening their positions and express confidence there is no immediate prospect of an offensive against them.

Parliament adjourned without receiving the figures concerning the Earl of Derby's recruiting plan, but on reassembling after the holidays the members will have the facts in regard to the question whether conscription is necessary.

TO INVESTIGATE
SINKING JAP SHIP

Washington, Dec. 24.—The sinking of the Japanese liner Yasaka Maru in the Mediterranean, reported torpedoed without warning, will be made the subject of an inquiry by the United States. Consular agents will be asked to obtain accurate versions of the incident and forward them without delay to the state department.

The state department's inquiry in the case is based solely on reports that the liner was torpedoed without warning his life was endangered. Should reports that the vessel was torpedoed without warning and that the submarine was an Austrian be verified officially, it is said further diplomatic correspondence with Austria-Hungary will undoubtedly ensue, in which the torpedoing of ships without warning will be discussed and demand again be made that American lives be not placed in peril by such practices.

Father and Mother Killed.

Mansfield, Ohio, Dec. 24.—It will be a sad Christmas for the eight children of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Kleinlein for their parents were killed late last night when their buggy was struck by an Erie passenger train as they were driving to their home west of this city. Kleinlein and his wife had spent the evening shopping here and their buggy was filled with holiday gifts for their children when they met death.

VENIZELOS IN
TALK CLAIMS
BIG SUCCESS

Paris, Dec. 24. (6:50 a. m.)—The Athens correspondent of the Figaro sends an interview secured from M. Venizelos, former Greek premier, concerning the recent parliamentary elections in Greece in which the adherents of M. Gounaris, minister of the interior, were successful and in which the Venizelos party abstained in most cases from going to the polls. The correspondent quotes M. Venizelos as follows:

"The elections were a brilliant triumph of my policy and ideas. A great majority of the voters abstained from voting. I am entitled to say that the verdict was still more categorical than that of last May. It is in vain that my opponents attempt to explain the abstentions by the mobilization. It must not be forgotten that we had a hundred thousand men with the colors last May and that the army voted in the present elections at several centers and that the part of the army which could not vote contained a large number of my party. In certain polling stations only three votes were recorded."

The correspondent says that he was also received by M. Gounaris and the other ministers who maintained that the elections were conducted in a free and open manner and that the number of abstentions was normal.

The Athens correspondent of the Havas agency has the following to say concerning the political situation in Greece:

"When parliament reassembles state of siege probably will be voted in order to stop the merciless attacks on the government's policy. M. Gounaris insists that the present cabinet remain, but unless the situation changes through the king's intervention, a reconstruction of the cabinet probably will occur."

Carranza Suspends Decree.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 24.—Because of official foreign protests, General Carranza has temporarily suspended his decree requiring banks in Mexico City to redeem their notes in gold, according to advices received today by the state department.

CALLS THE POPE
A KING OF PEACE

Rome, Dec. 23. (9 p. m.)—In his address to Pope Benedict today on the occasion of the reception by the pontiff of the sacred college, which visited him to extend Christmas greetings, Cardinal Vannutelli said that no better time than Christmas could be chosen to speak of peace in a year in which there had been so much sorrow and bloodshed. The cardinal declared that the pope is the fittest to take the lead in restoring peace, right and justice, having no interest of his own to further.

EAT LOBSTERS AND
SHAD WHILE YOU
MAY; NEARLY GONE

Washington, Dec. 24.—Shad and lobsters are disappearing rapidly from American waters, despite artificial propagation efforts, according to the annual report today of the United States bureau of fisheries. Cooperation and aid by state fishery authorities is suggested as a remedy for threatened depletion.

Shad fishing in the Chesapeake bay last year was the poorest known, said the report. Hatcheries maintained by the bureau are inactive through inability to obtain eggs, it added, and would remain so unless shad were protected on their way from the sea to the spawning grounds.

The decline in the lobster industry, the report declared, was viewed with great uneasiness. More efficiency in artificial propagation was urged as necessary to arrest diminution.

What the bureau is doing to reduce the high living cost through conservation and utilization of food fishes is told at length.

"Efforts of the bureau along this line," said the report, "entitle it to be regarded as a public benefactor." Millions of food fish, left stranded every year by floods, are saved and distributed, said the report, and much is done to exploit as food little known fish and other aquatic products.

Reduction in the price of seal skin is promised with the statement that hereafter dyeing and dressing of seal skins will be done in the United States instead of in London. The government now has several thousand skins in storage to be dyed. Alaskan seals comprise the most valuable herd of wild animals ever owned by any government, says the report.

Mrs. Wilson
Has Her Eyes
on Packages

Hot Springs, Va., Dec. 24.—All Christmas presents addressed to President Wilson here passed today into the safekeeping of his wife, to be withheld by her until tonight, when the big accumulation of packages will be opened.

The packages addressed to Mrs. Wilson were taken in charge by the president. Among the president's gifts are two from grandchildren, Ellen Woodrow McAdoo and Francis Woodrow Sayre.

An automobile trip and possibly a game of golf was on the president's program today.

American Steamer Detained.
London, Dec. 21. (delayed by censor).—A dispatch to Lloyds from Malta says that the American Levant steamer Montana has been detained there.

The Montana is a small vessel of 150 tons gross, owned by the Archipelago American Steamship company of Smyrna and Portland, Maine.

WHITE HOUSE
CHIEF USHER
PLAYS SANTA

Washington, Dec. 24.—I. H. Hoover, chief usher at the White House, who is playing Santa Claus there this year in the absence of President Wilson on his honeymoon trip to Hot Springs, Va., was a busy man today.

Early today, in the White house car loaded with presents, Hoover left for the Virginia side of the Potomac river to remember 50 little friends of the president. They live along the Washington road between the river and the Virginia club, where he often plays golf.

When Mr. Wilson assumed office the children began waving greetings to him from the roadside and soon they and the chief executive became quite chummy. So just before leaving for the Virginia springs the president admonished Hoover not to forget them at Christmas time.

This was just the beginning of Hoover's work today, though. Up in the library of the executive mansion, on the second floor, he found a large Christmas tree on which 19 little stockings were to be hung tonight. It had to be trimmed for all of the McAdoo children, Sally and Nona, and the president's grandchild, Ellen McAdoo, seven months old; Francis Bowes Sayre, one year old grandson of the president, and Josephine Cathron, a grand niece of 12 years, who are to spend Christmas at the White house.

Besides the children, Secretary and Mrs. McAdoo, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Bowes Sayre, Mrs. Anna Cathron, Professor Herbert Axson, Mrs. Ann Howe, Miss Margaret Wilson and Miss Helen Woodrow Bones are at the White house for the holidays. Secretary Tumulty will spend the day with his family here.

Every White house employee today received his customary Christmas gift of a turkey from the president.

Large Gas Well Found.

Blackwell, Okla., Dec. 24.—What is claimed by local oil and gas men to be one of the largest gas wells in the world was brought in last night on a lease, 11 miles northeast of here. The flow is estimated at between 55,000,000 and 70,000,000 feet daily. What was hitherto believed to be the largest well in the mid-continent field was brought about two months ago a mile from last night's entry. It was capped and is said to have showed a flow of 50,000,000 feet. Gas was struck at 1,710 feet.

PLAN TO REFORM
JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Paris, Dec. 23. (11:35 p. m.)—A bill aiming at the radical reform of the French judiciary was presented in the chamber of deputies today by Minister of Justice Viviani.

The bill provides for the substitution of single judges for the present system of one judge with two judges assessors in grave or doubtful cases. However, a judge would be entitled to call in a colleague in a purely advisory capacity, the judge being alone responsible for judgment.

EUROPEAN DOORS LOCKED
AGAINST PARTY ITS CHIEF
DESERTS TO RETURN HOMEWild Letter
Writer Gets
Her Release

Nyaack, N. Y., Dec. 24.—After being confined in state institutions for the insane since November, 1914, Mrs. Ida von Claussen, writer of threatening and eccentric letters to Theodore Roosevelt and others, is to be released from the state hospital for the insane at Middletown and placed in the custody of her brother, Matthew Claussen of New York city. Justice Tompkins today signed an order for her release, specifying that in her brother's charge she must not be allowed on the streets alone or out of sight of a custodian. While she has shown improvement, the court says she is not deemed entirely cured.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS
IN WAGE INCREASE

Worcester, Mass., Dec. 24.—The Graton and Knight Manufacturing company today distributed \$35,000 among its 1,700 employees as bonuses for loyalty during the past year in an unprecedented rush of business.

New York, Dec. 24.—Between 6,000 and 7,000 employees of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company today received a Christmas gift from the company in the form of a general increase in wages to take effect Jan. 1. It was estimated that the increase would total about \$250,000 a year. All motormen, conductors and guards are affected.

Pawtucket, R. I., Dec. 24.—A five per cent wage increase for its 900 employees was announced today by the Potter and Johnson Machine company, manufacturers of shell making machinery. Two-thirds of the employees at the plant who went on a strike in August for an eight-hour day and an increase in pay returned to work when the first five per cent increase was granted by the company. The new wage scale takes effect Jan. 1.

FOUR DEAD, THREE
DYING FROM GASES

Brandy City, Cal., Dec. 24.—Four men were asphyxiated by powder fumes, three others are unconscious today and expected to die, and another is in a serious condition as the result of gases generated by failure of a 22,000 pound blast of low grade powder, set in the Brandy City mine near here, to explode fully yesterday. Superintendent G. W. Taylor is the only one said to have a chance for recovery.

In Brandy City, a mile away, gas fumes were so thick that many persons were affected. No serious injuries, however, were reported.

MILLIONS HANDED
OVER TO WORKERS

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 24.—Distribution of the Christmas payroll in the Pittsburgh industrial district will be completed before tonight and when the last envelope has been handed out no less than \$10,000,000 will be in the hands of wage workers and salaried men, according to the estimate of bankers. All the mills, mines and factories have paid their men during the week, or will pay them today, while Allegheny county, the city of Pittsburgh and the city board of education will distribute some \$700,000. All railroads centering here arranged to have their semi-monthly pay day come this week and merchants and office managers expected to make their distribution this afternoon.

THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and vicinity.

Probably snow and somewhat colder tonight with the lowest temperature about 29 degrees; Saturday partly cloudy and colder.

Temperature at 7 a. m., 28. Highest yesterday, 38; lowest last night, 26. Wind velocity at 7 a. m., three miles per hour.

Precipitation in the last 24 hours, none.

Relative humidity at 7 p. m., 75; at 7 a. m., 79; at 1 p. m., 95.

Rise stage at 7 a. m., 1.7 feet, a fall of 3 of a foot in the last 24 hours.

J. M. SHERIER, Local Forecaster.

Out of the Trenches by
Christmas Campaign For-
saken by Its Leader.

INTERNAL STRIFE CAUSE

Dissensions Among Mem-
bers of Expedition Proves
Handicap to Project.

Christiania, Norway, Dec. 24. (via London, 2:25 p. m.)—The Norwegian liner Bergenfjord with Henry Ford on board, sailed for New York this morning. Mr. Ford stated before leaving Bergen that the peace expedition would continue under the auspices of the Women's International Peace association. The Rev. Samuel S. Marquis, dean of St. Paul's cathedral, sailed from Bergen with Mr. Ford.

Issues Statement.

Before leaving Christiania for Bergen, Mr. Ford wrote out the following statement for the press:

"I am satisfied with what has been accomplished in Christiania. Peace has been given publicity. Newspapers have power to end the war, for it is through publicity that the gospel of peace is spread.

"Norway is like every other country. The people are all right."

In announcing at Bergen the circumstances under which the expedition would be continued, Mr. Ford said a committee had been appointed to act as leaders. It consists of Judge Ben Lindsey of Denver, the Rev. Dr. Jenkin Lloyd Jones of Chicago, John Barry of San Francisco, Lieutenant Governor A. J. Bethea of South Carolina, and Louis P. Lochner of Chicago. Mr. Ford's secretary.

Christiania newspapers say that in view of Mr. Ford's departure no prominent Norwegians will join the expedition.

Breaks Down at Reception.

London, Dec. 24. (3:45 p. m.)—A Copenhagen dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company says:

"Before leaving, Mr. Ford gave a check for 1,000,000 kroner (about \$270,000) to finance the expedition. He left because he recognized that it was impossible to make headway. His party was always at loggerheads and Scandinavian pacifists adopted an attitude of reserve. When Mr. Ford found all official doors closed he broke down."

Family Uninformed.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 24.—Although Mrs. Henry Ford could not be communicated with this morning, those close to the family expressed great surprise at Mr. Ford's return home. His private secretary here said no cablegram had been received by the family announcing that he would return.

Henry Ford's departure from Europe apparently marks the termination of its original form of the most novel of the many movements which have been undertaken to bring about the ending of the war. Mr. Ford's announcement that the Woman's International Peace association henceforth will conduct the expedition would seem to indicate that, so far as he personally was concerned, he will relinquish the self-imposed task which he expressed in the phrase: "Out of the trenches by Christmas." It has not been made clear, however, whether Mr. Ford will continue to give financial support to the enterprise.

The Woman's International Peace association has been in existence for some time. It held a congress at The Hague last spring and appointed delegates to visit the capitals of various European and American nations. One of the most prominent women at the congress was Madame Rosika Schwimmer, president of the Hungarian Woman Suffrage association and a member of the Ford peace party. After the congress at The Hague, Madame Schwimmer came to the United States.

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CHICAGO IS HELD
IN GRASP OF FOG

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Chicago was wrapped today in a fog so dense that street lights were turned on, locomotive and street car headlights were necessary, and office buildings were ablaze with light. Surface cars and elevated trains moved slowly and many persons were late in getting to work. At 8:30 o'clock the darkness was particularly dense.